

began drafting legislation to end this abusive practice. While crafting this measure, I contacted the Humane Society of the United States for their input. As a result of these efforts, I introduced H.R. 1622, the Dog and Cat Protection Act.

An estimated 2,000,000 dogs and cats are slaughtered and sold annually as part of the international fur trade. Many of these animals are raised in deplorable conditions. Unfortunately, there are no federal laws to prohibit the importation, manufacture, transport or sale of any product made with dog and cat fur. The only provision in law to regulate the importation of products made with cat and dog fur is the Fur Products Labeling Act (FPLA). The FPLA and its regulations simply require that any product with a value of more than \$150 contain a label informing a consumer that it contains animal fur. Any product worth less than \$150 is exempted from the labeling requirement.

My legislation would impose a ban on all products entering the United States made with cat and dog fur. In order to prevent a foreign importer from establishing operations in the United States, H.R. 1622 would also prevent the sale, manufacture, transport, or advertisement of any product made domestically with cat and dog fur.

Furthermore, H.R. 1622 would give additional authority to the Customs Service to inspect products entering the United States to ensure they do not contain cat and dog fur. Violators of the ban would be subject to both civil and criminal penalties. Furthermore, persons found to be in violation of the ban would face the prospect of being permanently prohibited from selling any fur product in the United States.

The Dog and Cat Protection Act also amends the Fur Products Labeling Act to require all fur products entering the United States—regardless of their value—to contain a label showing their true content. This means those persons who try to mislabel products in order to get around the ban contained in my legislation would face additional penalties under the Fur Products Labeling Act. The additional labeling requirements will also help the Customs Service in their enforcement efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to put an end to the inhumane treatment of dogs and cats once and for all. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of H.R. 1622.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO SUSPEND DUTIES ON IM- PORTED RAW MATERIAL

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which supports important regional and national interests.

My home, the 7th Congressional District of Washington, is also the home of the K2 Corp., the last remaining major U.S. manufacturer of skis and one of three major makers of snowboards in the United States. K2 conducts all significant manufacturing operations for skis

and snowboards at its Vashon Island, Washington facility. In fact, all K2 snowboards and virtually all K2 and Olin-brand skis sold throughout the world are individually crafted by technicians on Vashon Island. Moreover, K2 sources almost all of the components for its skis and snowboards in the U.S. stimulating the U.S. economy through its purchases of raw materials from U.S. suppliers, especially in the Pacific Northwest region of the country. However, for a key ski and snowboard component—polyethylene base materials—K2 has been unable to find a supplier of these products in the U.S. that can meet its needs. Therefore, K2 has been forced to import this product, which is subject to U.S. customs duties upon importation. This legislation provides for a temporary suspension of customs duty on the raw material which is vital to the U.S. production of skis and snowboards and which are unavailable from domestic producers.

K2 is working hard to remain viable in the highly competitive international market for skis and snowboards. In fact, K2 has endured as a U.S. ski manufacturer in the face of fierce price competition, while several other major ski companies no longer manufacture skis in the U.S. This temporary duty suspension legislation would support jobs in the region, as well as K2's ability to continue developing innovative, fine quality products. Equally important, a temporary duty suspension would help K2 preserve and increase its competitiveness in the global marketplace.

K2 is the only major exporter of skis made in the U.S. In addition, K2 is one of three principal exporters of U.S. made snowboards. Thus, K2's exports of U.S. manufactured skis and snowboards represent a substantial percentage of U.S. skis and snowboards sold worldwide. If K2 is unable to remain competitive in global and domestic markets, skis manufactured in the U.S. may disappear from the global marketplace. The temporary duty suspension proposed by this legislation would help prevent the shutdown of the only remaining U.S. producer of skis.

OPPOSING NATIONAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION OR NATIONAL TEACHER TESTING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to forbid the use of federal funds to develop or implement a national system of teacher certification or a national teacher test. My bill also forbids the Department of Education from denying funds to any state or local education agency because that state or local educational agency has refused to adopt a federally-approved method of teacher certification or testing. This legislation in no way interferes with a state's ability to use federal funds to support their chosen method of teacher certification or testing.

Having failed to implement a national curriculum through the front door with national student testing (thanks to the efforts of members of the Education Committee under the

leadership of Chairman GOODLING), the administration is now trying to implement a national curriculum through the backdoor with national teacher testing and certification. National teacher certification will allow the federal government to determine what would-be teachers need to know in order to practice their chosen profession. Teacher education will revolve around preparing teachers to pass the national test or to receive a national certificate. New teachers will then base their lesson plans on what they needed to know in order to receive their Education Department-approved teaching certificate. Therefore, I call on those of my colleagues who oppose a national curriculum to join me in opposing national teacher testing and certification with the same vigor with which you opposed national student testing.

Many educators are already voicing opposition to national teacher certification and testing. The Coalition of Independent Education Associations (CIEA), which represents the majority of the over 300,000 teachers who are members of independent educators associations, has passed a resolution opposing the nationalization of teacher certification and testing; I have attached a copy of this resolution for insertion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. As more and more teachers realize the impact of this proposal, I expect opposition from the education community to grow. Teachers want to be treated as professionals, not as minions of the federal government.

Legislation has already been introduced in the Texas State Legislature prohibiting the use of any national certification or national examination to determine if someone is qualified to teach in Texas. While I applaud this legislation, I wonder if Texas would change its policies if the Department of Education threatened to deny Texas federal funds if Texas failed to adopt the Department's chosen method of teacher certification and testing. It is up to Congress to see that the Department of Education does not bully the states into adopting the method of teacher certification and testing favored by DC-based bureaucrats.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to join me in opposing national teacher certification or national teacher testing. Training and certification of classroom teachers is the job of state governments, local school districts, educators, and parents; this vital function should not be usurped by federal bureaucrats and/or politicians. Please stand up for America's teachers and students by signing on as a cosponsor of my legislation to ensure taxpayer dollars do not support national teacher certification or national teacher testing.

COALITION OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS—STATEMENT ON NATIONAL TEACHER LICENSURE, FEBRUARY 26, 1999

The licensure of teachers should remain the responsibility of each state's Board of Education and any attempt to authorize the federal government to govern this process should be opposed.

Secretary of Education Richard Riley's proposal (February 16, 1999) to empower a teacher panel to grant licenses for teaching would remove the separate state's authority to protect the welfare of the general public.

Teaching is a public enterprise and not a private profession.

Such high stakes licensure decisions must be controlled by a body that is responsible to

the public and has accountability for the quality of the decision.

The current education reform movement has compelled states' Boards of Education to revamp and improve teacher licensure programs. This right should be left to the states to best determine how they license state teachers.

Congress should oppose any movement toward federalizing educator licensure, teacher appraisal, and employment contracts.

The undersigned representatives of the Coalition of Independent Education Associations strongly urge our members of the Congress and the Senate to vigorously defend the rights of states to control their educational destiny.

Arizona Professional Educators, Association of American Educators, Association of Professional Educators of Louisiana, Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators, Association of Texas Professional Educators, Kentucky Association of Professional Educators, Keystone Teachers Association, West Virginia Professional Educators, Mississippi Professional Educators, National Association of Professional Educators, Palmetto State Teachers Association, Professional Educators Network of Florida, Professional Educators of Iowa, Professional Educators of North Carolina, Professional Educators of Tennessee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Tuesday, May 4, 1999, and early today, Wednesday, May 5, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 105 through 109. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 105, "yes" on rollcall vote 106, "yes" on rollcall vote 107, "present" on rollcall vote 108, and "no" on rollcall vote 109.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S TEACHERS

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the House Education Caucus and as a parent, I rise today to honor the outstanding work our teachers do every day. Their dedication and expertise form the cornerstone of our nation's education system. They are there for our children, often under trying circumstances and with less than adequate resources and support. They perform daily miracles in their classrooms.

Few other professionals touch as many in as many different ways as teachers do. Teaching children math, English, science and history is only the beginning of what teachers do. They are listeners, advocates, support people, role models, mentors and motivators.

They encourage children to reach farther than they ever thought possible and they are there to catch their students if they should slip.

Teachers often put countless extra hours outside of the classroom preparing lessons, reading and correcting papers, and working with students who need just a little extra help. They do this because they love their job, care about their students and are committed to ensuring that our children have the best chance at success.

I believe that we can go a long way in improving our country's education system by exhibiting respect for our teachers and by letting them know how much we value their contributions. I urge my colleagues to recognize teachers for the significant role they play in our lives and in the well-being of our nation. As a Member of this House, as the co-chair of the Education Caucus and as a parent of two high school daughters, I thank the thousands of teachers who have dedicated themselves to educating and believing in our children.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL BLUE MASS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the celebration of the Fourth Annual Blue Mass in Worcester County. The Diocese of Worcester will host this event on Sunday, May 2, 1999, in tribute to all law enforcement personnel who honorably serve our local communities.

A special memorial service will be held prior to the Mass to honor those who have died since last year's Blue Mass. Those being remembered are Lieutenant Joseph R. Ripel of the Massachusetts State Police, Sergeant John J. Lesczynski of Worcester Police Department, and Patrolman Mark McEachern of the Boylston Police Department. They served with pride and are true role models for our youth.

Four new awards are being instituted this year in dedication to law enforcement.

The Distinguished Law Enforcement Award will be presented jointly to Sergeant Vincent Gorgoglione, Supervisor of the Worcester Police Department Domestic Violence Unit and Christine Kelly, Program Coordinator for the Worcester Intervention Network.

The Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement Education will be bestowed upon former Attorney General Robert Quinn in recognition of the establishment of the Quinn Law.

The Outstanding Community Service Award is being presented to the entire Holden Police Department. The Holden police officers have committed themselves to serving the students of Holden, MA. Through such programs as the Adopt-A-School Officer for every grade school, Thursday night basketball, and public safety days, these officers have made outstanding contributions to their town, paying special attention to the needs of the student population.

Finally, the Interfaith Award is being awarded to Lieutenant Paul Bozicas of the Fitchburg Police Department, who is active in a variety

of civic and charitable activities, including the Charity Five Road Race, Citizen's Police Academy, and the Department's Employee Assistance Unit.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise today to acknowledge the Fourth Annual Blue Mass and the law officials being honored. It is a befitting celebration to remember and acknowledge those who do so much.

DEMOCRACY AS A UNIVERSAL VALUE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues a piece by Stephen Rosenfeld from the Washington Post of March 12, 1999. It highlights the eloquent words spoken by India's Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen at the "World Movement for Democracy" conference recently held in New Delhi, India.

I attended the conference and served on an opening panel with my colleagues Representative GARY ACKERMAN, Representative JIM McDERMOTT, and Representative LLOYD DOGGETT. The international event was cosponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), as well as two Indian partner organizations. I was impressed by the extraordinary commitment of the participants, representing over 80 countries from all parts of the world, to the shared values of freedom, rule of law, and human rights. The conference adopted a founding document establishing a "Worldwide Movement for Democracy," the purpose of which is to develop new forms of cooperation to promote and strengthen democracy.

NED deserves commendation for organizing this conference. NED grants have supported nongovernmental, pro-democratic programs in dozens of countries around the world. The "World Movement for Democracy" is yet another example of NED's outstanding work to advance the cause of democracy worldwide.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 12, 1999]

THE ECONOMIC USES OF DEMOCRACY

(By Stephen S. Rosenfeld)

The political blessings of democracy are manifest, but that leaves many poor countries still worrying whether democracy is a burden or a benefit to their economic development. This nagging question was tackled in New Delhi last month by a leading student of the affairs of the poor, India's Nobel economist Amartya Sen. There for the founding of a "World Movement for Democracy" by the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, he took up the congenial theme of "democracy as a universal value."

Sen acknowledged the high growth delivered in Singapore by the authoritarian approach identified with former president Lee Kuan Yew. But a view of "all the comparative studies together," he said, suggests there may be no relation between economic growth and democracy in either direction. Still, none of the policies proven helpful to development—openness to competition, use